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وَالَّذِينَ جَاهَدُوا فِينَا لَنَهْدِيَنَّهُمْ سُبُلَنَا وَإِنَّ اللَّهَ لَمَعَ الْمُحْسِنِينَ

Those who strive hard for Us, We shall certainly guide them in Our ways, And God is surely with those who do right.

(Qur'an 29/69)

25 years is a long time, certainly plenty of time for hair to turn white. Regardless what the original colour was, the black plaits, the blonde locks and the ginger heads, all reveal at least a silver hair or two. - At least that is what would have happened had nature had its way. Many of us ladies like to play a trick on nature by dying our hair in the colour of our youthful years.

There is no need for such tricks when it comes to the silver colour of the MUSLIM WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION. Our Organisation carries its silver head with dignity. It was established 25 years ago. When we reflect on the hard work which the members have put into the Association during all those years and compare it with our achievements we realise how rewarding it can be for Muslim women to work voluntarily for the cause of Islam.

The following pages will reveal some of the achievements. They are a collection of speeches by MWA Committee members held on the occasion of the Annual MWA Eid dinner and Silver Jubilee celebration, at the Islamic Cultural Centre, London, on 28th June 1987, and letters from well-wishers.

May this little Silver Jubilee souvenir remind us how rewarding the work of our Organisation is with the help and blessings of God Almighty, and may it inspire us to carry on our task in the spirit of our great religion.

Samina Hasan



Welcome Address by the President MWA

Your Excellencies, Members and Friends

Assalamo Alaikum - Peace be with you.

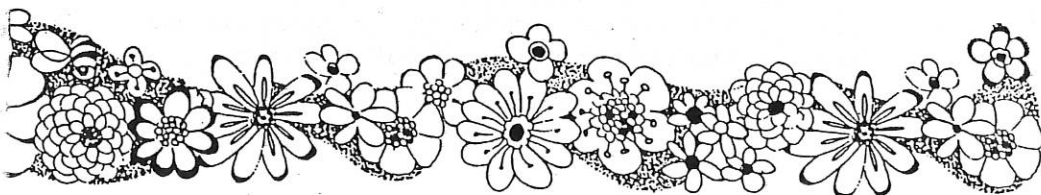
On behalf of the Muslim Women's Association I would like to welcome you to a very special event. This is not only our Annual Eid Dinner, but as I am sure you know already, it is also the 25th Anniversary of our Association.

The first 25 years have been characterised by many successful events, of which you will hear more later, but I do just want to make one point: in the last few years, we have been able to accomplish a great deal of work of value and importance, thanks to the unfailing support, encouragement and confidence of both members and friends, here and abroad. I hope that you will carry on giving us your much needed assistance and co-operation. Above all, we have received immense help from Allah Almighty, and we pray that we may continue to enjoy this.

I would also like to thank the members of the Association who presented me with a beautiful bouquet of flowers on the 25th Anniversary of our Association. I am very touched by this act of kindness.

Now, all that remains for us to do is to thank you for coming, and to wish you all a pleasant and enjoyable evening.

Thank you - May Allah bless you all.



A SHORT HISTORY OF MWA

By Nisa Ali

Madam President, Director, of The Islamic Cultural Centre, Guests, Sisters and Brothers in Islam, Assalaamu Alaikum

It is indeed a great honour for me to be addressing you on this the 25th Anniversary of the Muslim Women's Association.

As I look around and I hope I am not giving away any age secrets, I can see at least three ladies who attended the third meeting in June 1962. Two of whom are still active members of the Association. From our visual display you will see that we had ten Presidents. Begum Ikramullah being the first, followed by Princess Layla Fatima of Morocco to our present, President Mrs. Khanum Hassan.

From the very beginning we have never been just a group of women passing a couple of hours chatting over a cup of tea. No! we were active in our caring for others.

Many individuals and organisations received our help in cash and kind. From the war-torn zone of Algeria to the floods in Chittagong and from the Palestinian and Afghan refugees to another war torn zone, Lebanon. The list is too enormous.

One of our busiest times was after the 1967, 6 day war in the Middle East. When we were sending tons of clothes to the refugees in Jordan, through the generosity of Princess Dine and the Royal Jordanian Airlines.

Recently we have had two different kinds of donations. We were one of the sponsors of a young man who had recovered from a brain tumour, and walked from John O'Groats to Land's End, to raise funds for a brain scanner.

The other was a pupil from our first Islamic weekend Class. He was the leader of a group of six young men on a scientific research expedition of Greenland. We have had the pleasure of seeing the most wonderful slides taken by him, portraying at times some of the dangers they encountered.

In 1976, our caring has caused us to have a Sponsorship Scheme which is co-ordinated through the Save The Children Fund. We are happy to say, that the first two boys we sponsored through secondary school are grown young men who do not need our support any more. (Some of the letters from our children are displayed outside). At present we are sponsoring eight families in Lebanon and one in Pakistan.

Seeing the need of the unfortunate Muslim children in this country, we launched our plans in 1964 for an orphanage - the newspapers around the world talked of the "New Style Orphanage" the Muslim Women's Association was planning in London. It took us many years to establish the Home which is named Madina House, as our community was not aware of the need of such a home. Alhumdullila in 1981, through the great generosity of friends, here and abroad, of organisations, and the unceasing effort of our members - Madina House became a reality. Once the building was bought everything that was needed to make it a 'Home' such as, carpets, curtains, furniture and kitchen equipment were all donated by a few of Muslim Women's Association members.

To date 50 children have passed through our home. 50 children who could have been lost to the faith. In 1967 our Association started an Islamic weekend class in Forest Gate, with the kind assistance of three of the local residents, (two of whom are here this evening). The second was opened in Ealing and the third in Battersea. This education scheme gained momentum and needed full-time staff, which the MWA could not provide, so the project was adopted by the Islamic Cultural Centre in 1969. And now has developed into a prosperous and efficient system of Islamic Education throughout Britain. Among us are a few pupils from that first school.

To keep members informed of MWA activities a Newsletter was launched in 1969 and was later developed into our monthly magazine "The Muslim Women". It has maintained a high standard in its articles which cover all aspects, from important issues such as 'The rights of Women in Islam' to World events and special pages for health, Junior Corner and Religious Information.

Our activities and interests are not only confined to the Muslim Women's Association but to many other organisations. In 1964, MWA was the first female organisation to be represented at the FOSIS Annual Conference. Our then Secretary was given a chance to say a few words to the predominately male audience. In 1973 our President was a member of the inaugural meeting of The Islamic Council of Europe and was elected to the executive committee. A position held by successive Presidents. Another first by the MWA came in 1978 when our then President became the first female to be elected on the Union of Muslim Organizations' executive committee. A position held by our present President.

Our liaison with the women's Council and the Arab Women's Council begun in the early 80's and I am happy to say our Associations still work very closely together. Members are asked from time to time to give lectures to other organisations, such as the Women Police Constables in Wiltshire, students in Leicester, Christian Missionaries in Plaistow, and one on International Women's Day at a school in Bethnal Green. We like to think that we are contributing to an understanding of Islam and to better relations within our society here and abroad.

On the International scene, a talk was given by one of our members at an International Muslim Women's Conference in Holland, we were represented at an Interfaith seminar in Kublenz, and at an International Conference in Paris, to mention a few. All through the years some of the MWA members became our welfare group, visiting the sick in their homes and in hospital, visiting women in prison and counselling those with problems. The range of their work is extensive.

On the lighter side, there was much joy in organising the sale of tea on the occasion of the Eids. A welcoming cup on those cold winter days. Also organising such events as Milad and Miraj functions, Fashion shows, as 'Keep up to date the Islamic way', Tea and Dinner parties and Art Exhibitions etc.

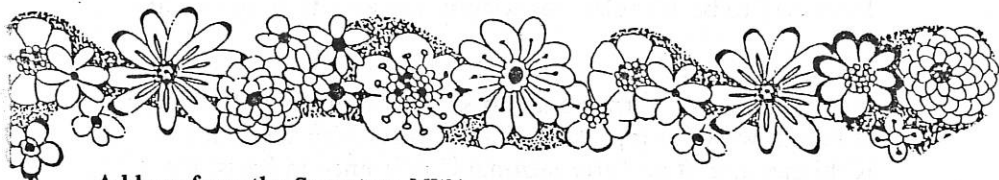
The Islamic Cultural Centre has been our 'Home' from the establishment of The Muslim Women's Association 25 years ago, so we feel as part of it. We had a short spell away from here when

the new Mosque was being built. Our dear brothers at FOSIS kindly gave us the use of the premises at the Muslim Student Centre and Hostel, at Kilburn for our meetings and other functions. On the completion of this centre we returned 'Home'.

The past 25 years of the Muslim Women's Association have been successful only through the enthusiasm and dedication of our members. All the work that has been put into such projects as Madina House and for raising money to help fellow Muslims in need, has been purely voluntary, indeed the whole Association is run on a voluntary basis.

As a registered charity we depend on the generosity of others to achieve our aims and continue in our work 'fisabilillah'.

I have mentioned that some of our members who were the backbone of our Association in the early years are here this evening, with us also are some of their children, some of whom, Alhamdulillah, have shown the same interest and enthusiasm as their parents. So I feel confident that the future of the Association is safe in the capable hands of our youngsters, who will continue to work in the way of Islam.



Address from the Secretary MWA

Assalamo Alaikum

I would like to welcome you all on this auspicious occasion of the Muslim Women's Association's 25th Anniversary and Eid-Al-Fitr Dinner. If one would like to list the achievements of MWA during the past 25 years it could take me a while, nevertheless I have great pleasure in mentioning a few activities of the Muslim Women's Association during the last four years since I have been the Secretary of this Association, and they have left deep impressions on all of us. Therefore it will be appropriate to mention four major functions of the Muslim Women's Association.

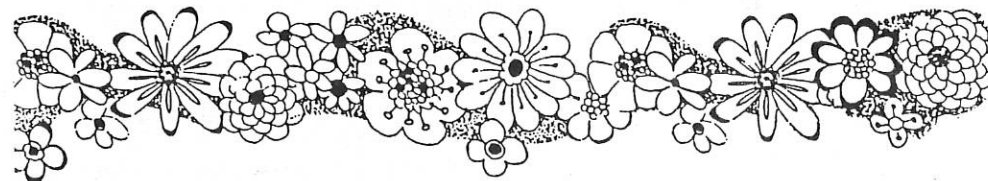
1. Muslim Women's Association Bazaar - our main fund raising event, which has always been a successful event by the Grace of Allah Tala it is an occasion for friends and families to get together and enjoy our International variety of foods.

2. Madina House - our main aim and Mashallah it is running smoothly. Though many times we were faced with many practical difficulties - still with the help of Allah Almighty and most concerned Trustees our hard working President, Mrs Khanam Hassan and other Committee members we managed to pull through.

3. Our monthly meeting is a regular feature of Muslim Women's Association and we have been successful in organising informed talks and formal speeches of scholars and knowledgeable people on various aspects of not only Islam but also social and cultural involvement of Muslims in this country. It has always been our main aim to involve our younger generation in all of our activities and I am very glad to say that our boys and girls have always made a very positive contribution in our efforts.

4. Milad-un-Nabi Celebration is also one of the most successful functions, and we have always tried to invite eminent, knowledgeable ladies and gentlemen, again childrens participation has been our main aim. Mashallah children have always been very enthusiastic and well prepared on expressing their views on Prophet Mohammed Salalohu Alaihe Wa Sallims life.

Well, Ladies and Gentlemen, I shall not take much of your time, although I would love to say some more about the past activities of Muslim Women's Association. Last but not least, I would like to mention our hard working President, who has shown a tremendous interest and put a lot of effort and hard work in Madina House and in the Association; without her, our dreams could not have come true.

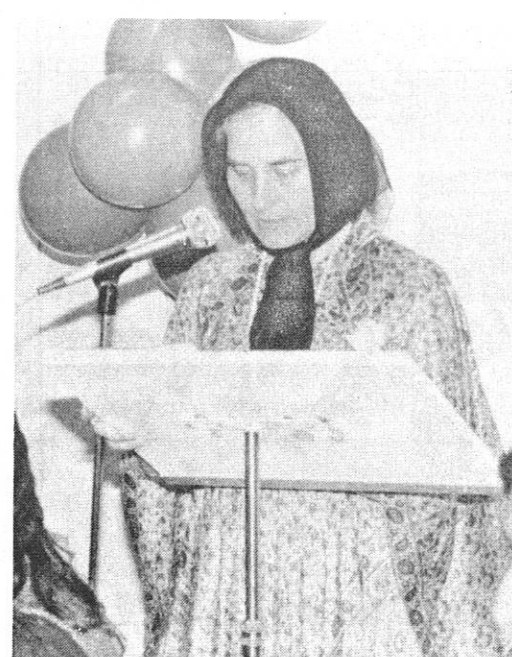




Mrs. Khanam Hassan, President MWA, addressing the guests.



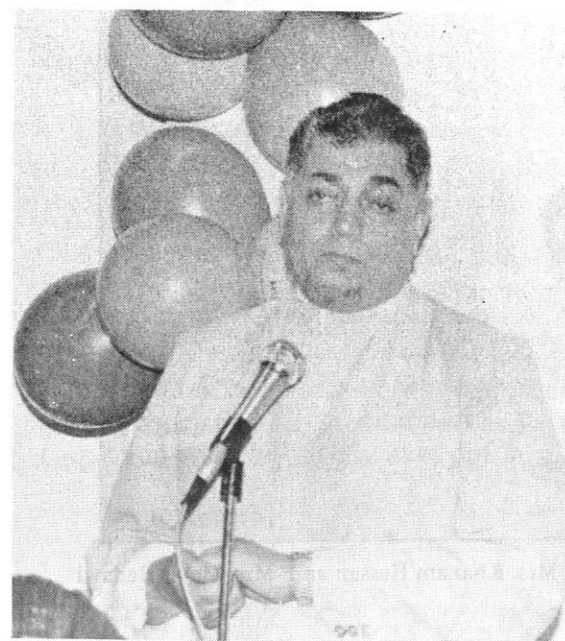
Mrs. Karima Mustafa, Secretary, giving a speech.



Mrs. Samina Hasan, Co-Editor 'The Muslim Woman' reading messages from wellwishers.

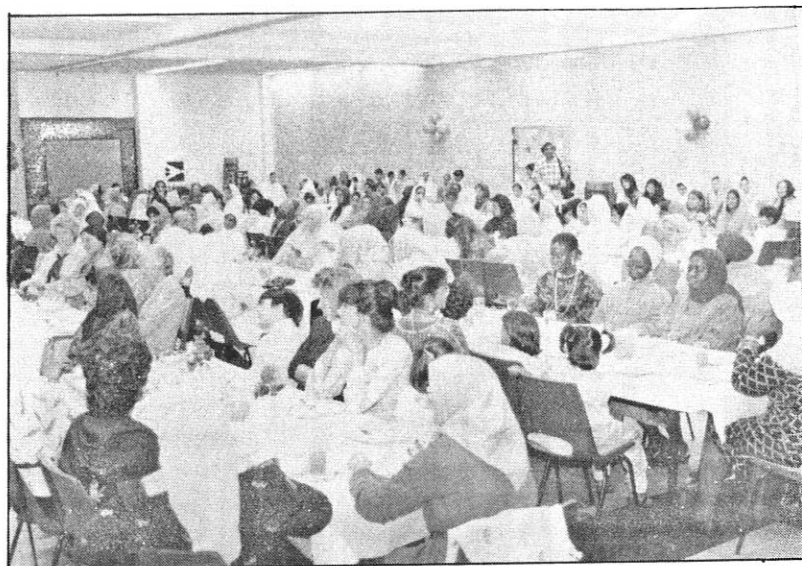


Mrs. Mavis Badawi giving a vote of thanks.



Sheikh Jamal, Imam of the Islamic Cultural Centre, reciting from the Qur'an





Guests at the MWA Eid Dinner and Jubilee celebration.



from left to right: Mrs. Nisa Ali, Mrs. Khanam Hassan and Mrs. Mavis Badawi

A message from Begum Ayesha Jan

Assalamu Alaikum,

Dear President,

Many thanks for your kind invitation to the Eid Dinner, but sorry I cannot be there. I am completely housebound with arthritis and other things.

But I shall be thinking of you all and the happy times I had past Eid Dinners.

It is nice to think that I am not forgotten. My prayers and good wishes are for you all May Allah be with you always.

Yours in Islam,

Begum Ayesha Jan
Teddington

A message from Ilse Ahmad

Dear Khanam,
Assalamu Alaikum,

Thank you, at last, very much for a lovely Eid party and Silver Jubilee celebration.

It was so nice to see old friends again and to see how much the Association has grown over the years; thanks to the hard work you and your family have put in.

Kind regards,

Ilse Ahmad
London

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A message from Dr. Charis Waddy

Dear Khanam,

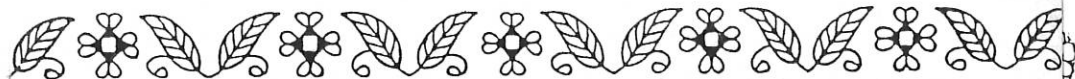
What a glorious occasion it was on Sunday! Thank you so much for asking me, and also enabling me to bring Mrs. Farah Nizami and introduce her to you all. We both thoroughly enjoyed the excellent food and company.

I am very grateful to the MWA, first personally: I met some of you just as I was renewing my touches with the Muslim world, and your support, information and inspiration was one of the foundations on which the writing I felt called by God to do was made possible. Then nationally: through these troubled years, of great opportunity, it is hard to assess the value of what you have done. For family life, for standards there and in education: and also you have brought a presence into many places here and in Europe, of dignity and beauty and enjoyment, which is an element of great importance.

The next 25 years will be even fuller of risk and opportunity! It is good to see so many of the next generation around, ready to tackle the tasks God gives to them, as He has given work to us.

God bless you and Medina House, and grant you health and strength for whatever you need.

Yours sincerely,
Charis Waddy



A message from Aisha Begum Khan

Dear Mrs Ali,

Thank you so much for your kind letter with the amazing news that the Muslim Women's Association will be Insha Allah, celebrating its 25th Anniversary on June 28th 1987.

It seems like yesterday when you, Mrs Peckham and other Founder Members invited me to join you in your efforts to promote among other things the Madina House project. I remember the various bazaars, dinners and other functions held to raise money for Refugees in many parts of the world and how you and the other ladies worked to achieve greater and greater results.

Congratulations on the fine achievements of the Association - particularly the Magazine which has always been a source of great interest at all times and I have treasured every issue, reading again and again past issues and finding the new ones even better as new ideas are incorporated into the Magazine. Good fortune go with you in keeping this link between Muslim ladies everywhere. In Cyprus being so far away and living on the Greek side of the Island I look forward even more to receiving the Magazine every month.

My husband and I send you all Greetings on your Anniversary and hope the next twenty-five years will be as fine as the first twenty-five.

Yours very sincerely,
Aisha Begum Khan



A message from Saleh Al Shaya

Dear Mrs. Hassan,

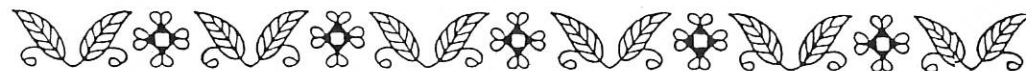
I am very delighted to learn that the Muslim Women's Association is celebrating Silver Jubilee on 28th June 1987.

I congratulate you and all the Members of the Association on this memorable occasion and wish I was present at the celebration.

I highly appreciate the good work that the Association has been doing during the last quarter century and wish the Association further success in their various activities.

With Best Wishes and Regards,

Yours sincerely,
Saleh Al Shaya



A message from Riadh El-Droubie

Dear Mrs Hassan,

I cannot believe that it is already twenty-five years since I wrote to a few ladies, in my capacity as secretary of the Islamic Cultural Centre, to come and attend a meeting to form a ladies group - "The Muslim Women's Association". I believe there are a few of those founder members, with the help of their families, still active in the Association. I take this opportunity to send you, your members and friends, my, and my family's best wishes. I pray to God, the Almighty, to grant you further success in your work.

Well done. May God bless you all.

Yours sincerely,
Riadh El-Droubie

Aisha Lemu's telegramme from Nigeria

WARMEST GREETINGS TO ALL MWA MEMBERS AND
CONGRATULATIONS ON ANNIVERSARY

FROM AISHA LEMU AND FEDERATION OF MUSLIM
WOMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS IN NIGERIA

A message from Zena Baksh, Trinidad, West Indies

Dear Sisters in Islam,
Assalamo-Alaikum

It gives me great pleasure in sending greetings to you on this
the very special occasion of your 25th anniversary. The years
have certainly flown by quickly.

I have happy recollections of my days as a member of the
Association and the meetings I attended when I was residing
in London. I particularly enjoyed our meetings with cookery
demonstrations and organising those open air bazaars in the
grounds of Regents Lodge as it then was.

Whenever I am in London I do still enjoy coming to your
meetings, and especially to your celebrations which are still
as big and successful as I remember them.

Well done! May Allah bless you and give you continued
success in all your efforts.

Sincerely,
Zena Baksh

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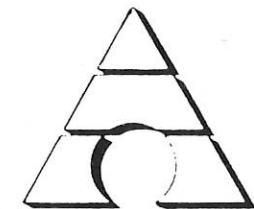
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